

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Council Must Justify Its Majority Rule

CITY COUNCIL has properly defended the statutory status quo in its relations with the City-County Planning

Commission.

There is no compelling reason to require a two-thirds vote of the elected Council in order to overturn a decision of the appointive planning commission. But in reaching its conclusion to oppose Sen. Spencer Bell in this matter, mayor and Council blurred the outlines and engaged in over-simplification of a rather involved problem.

This is unfortunate because recognition and accommodation of the involvements might produce some fruitful results without sacrificing the principle of majority rule by an elected body.

"Under no circumstances," said Mayor

rule by an elected body.

"Under no circumstances," said Mayor
Van Every, "do I think the City Council
should give its rights away to any committee, and if it has to abide by what a
committee does the people have no recourse. The way it is now the people can
always vote us out." The principle is right, but it is weakened by the fact that the people cannot
always "vote us out." The people in the
perimeter area have no recourse against
Council. They have representation—and
that indirect—only on the planning commission.

intai indirect—only on the planning com-mission. Thus Sen. Bell argues with some logic that in perimeter zoning at least the emmission's decision should have more experimental to the sent of the com-fortunately, was glossed your in coun-cil's discussion of the Bell proposal It cannot be said either that annexa-tion will remove this flaw in Council's position. Only one third of the perimeter is proposed for annexation. For an in-definite period, an unrepresentative Council (in perimeter matters) will be

able to override the representative body by a simple majority.

Sen. Bell's proposal, although it appears as a specific for the problem, also has a serious flaw. The purpose of the planning and zoning statute is to shape growth without distinction as to city and county areas, to treat the metropolitan area as the unified whole it is destined to become. But into the "unified whole concept Sen. Bell's proposal would introduce a legal distinction between city and county areas with the possible effect of diminishing acceptance of planning and zoning by city residents.

We think the zoning statute as drawn is sound. There had to be some appeal agency and City Council, being most representative of the total population area, was the logical body in which to invest appellate jurisdiction.

The root of the present ruckus is the belief that Council is insensitive to the views of perimeter residents. Certainly the record suggests it is less sensitive to them than to: "It is less sensitive to them than to: "It is less sensitive to the make. This places upon Council the responsibility of avoiding distinctions of its own making, of avoiding any hint of discrimination against perimeter residents. It has not fully accepted: "It has not fully accepted it."

The resulting resentment works against effective planning and zoning and, equally important, against annexation as well.

Council vigorously defends its majority vote.

ty vote.

Let it justify that position by scrupulous fairness, and strict attention to the general welfare.

This Is What The Park Board Needed

CHARLOTTE'S City Council emerged clear-eyed and weatherwise this week from a political tempest of its own making. When the time came to fill the much-disputed Park Board vacancy it settled for the name of Mrs. Robert D. Howerton.

able.

It is perhaps just as well that the subject of a successor to Stan Cropley stirred on discussion, as a result, more than ordinary care went into the business of sifting and scrutinizing the qualifications and apitudes of prospective appointees. Such conscientious care in the filling of vacancies on important municipal boards and commissions is sure to pay big dividends.

Mrs. Howerton, an active career woman, is well-equipped for her new duties. As principal of Ashley Park School, she has already demonstrated an elightened interest in community problems. She has been active in civic affairs for a number of years.

or years.

Furthermore, Mrs. Howerton has not neglected her home work on the specific problem of meeting the recreation needs

IT IS significant that some of the weightiest arguments yet offered for consolidation of city and county school systems lurk in the depths of last week's Chamber of Commerce report on annexation.

Any area annexed to the city does not automatically become a part of the city school district. A separate vote of the people involved is usually required and, presumably, this custom will be followed in the proposed extension.

But, as the Chamber's study commit-tee discovered, district lines cannot be shifted from one place to another with-out raising operating difficulties in both school systems and great inconvenience to some of the pupils and their parents.

For instance, there are eight county schools within the perimeter area to come into the city—but none of these is a high school. High school pupils living in this area will have to be distributed among high schools located within the present city limits.

There are three county schools closely adjacent to the proposed line. These

Why Consolidation Is So Necessary

of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. It is already clear that she will bring a fresh, new viewpoint to the Park Board. For instance, she believes that the body's emphasis on spectator sports has gone "plenty far enough" and thinks it's time to concentrate on family recreation. In this latter and frequently neglected field, a woman's touch will undoubtedly prove helpful.

Her interest the Allen report on recreation is also particularly vedcome at a time when park planning must be shaped to meet the challenge of a swiftly expanding population. The previously allmale commission has been less than enthusiastic about many sound and sensible improvements suggested in the survey—some of which can be had without spending any enormous sums of money. The "school-park" concept, which would turn many school playgrounds into community recreation centers, is an example of the kind of innovation Mrs. Howerton can be expected to support enthusiastically.

The Connell deserves commendation for penning a happy ending to a long and exasperating controversy. Mrs. Howerton deserves the community's best wishes for a successful term of office.

schools will lose approximately half of their present pupils.

But perhaps more important, 43.7 percent of the total taxable value for support of the total taxable value for support of the total taxable value for support of the source would withdraw the same area to the source would withdraw to the same area the county school system will soe only 33 per cent of its pupils.

It is the study committee's conclusion "that a common school system for all of Mecklenburg County would have completely eliminated all the problems encountered in our study, would allow the fullest and most efficient utilization of all school buildings and administrative staff and teachers, would provide state bus transportation of all pupils living more than one and a half miles from their school and would be generally more efficient and less costly than the two systems we have now."

It is the committee's firm opinion that "the best solution for local school problems would be the "consolidation of the commer cent of the state of the

People's Brash Ruark Challenged By Yankee-Irish Brat

Through a martini luze my mother or father has never gared at me, I would swear to it. Perhaps the circle in which you travel is accustomed to such a haze. Ours wasn't. That depends upon the individual, Liquor was the west of the sum of the s

bag from under the table from a paper cub.

And, incidentally, part of the profit from that cocktail defrayed New York State's income tax, making the payment of same to its residents an obligation, not a year-round burden like Carolians.

year-round burden line Cation
lina's.

Roam amidst highballs and eigeartlet smoke we never did. When
adulated the work of or an evemental of relaxation with my adult
partents, our party was over and
to hed we went and stayed, unless sick. Not to be brought out
amongst guests because "monma" was too typically southernlazy to spend a few minutes and
soothe our fears, give us a drink
of water or persuade us with
the flat palm that bed was where
we were staying.

we were staying.

And as for Mother doing a handstand at 2 arr., I'm sure after caring for mine children and a husband without the assistance of a colored mammy, she was too tired after entertaining and feeding her guests—some thing unihered of below the Mallor of the stay of the s

that, it's too damned cold.

And, furthermore, your southern gentlemen age too busy being southern gentlemen, or anentime to busy being southern gentlemen, or anAmerican children are the men
and women of tomorrow who will
or right on supporting your beloved Eurone and fighting her
wars as we have for decades,
the supporting your beloved Eurone and fighting her
wars as we have for decades,
the property of the supporting the suption of the supporting the supyour heighball spilled, put
your neck and a set mouth kiss
you and saw "I love you." You
en't buw that in any package
store or bottle.

Litten (a.s. wee yeller para al-

night and whisper, "God bless mother and daddy and keep me a good boy or girl." That's nut just Vankee or Rebel, Mr. Ruark; that's a giff from God, all over this wonderful land of ours that makes life worth living.

And my final word: Go back to Europe, with its communism, and

Voting And Fighting: Illogical Comparison

are and don't care.
They are very well familiar with Bock in Roll, how to twist and turn also in some sports and in funny sabout politics. It would therefore be an injustice to put such a burden on them, which could be badly mis-

opportunity in the come mature.

—HENRY KAYE

These are my conclusions on politics:

A machine is any combination or mechanism for utilizing, modifying, applying, or transmitting energy.

A political machine is an orporty, controlled by practical politicals, in which discipline and subordination are maintained rchiefly by the use of partonage. We are supposed to have a government, when we have a machine as described above set up in every state, county, and precinct in the good off. U.S. A controlled in most cases by one man, and offer the provided supports of the propriet privilege seekers, or lobbyjsts?

We then get legislation with-

Some Conclusions

The State of Do we need the lobbysits?

The answer is "no," because we had the answer when J. Spencer with the same caliber that would be available to serve the cities. And we have many more would be available to serve the cities, counties, sates, and the left of the same caliber that could be available to serve the cities, counties, sates, and the left of the same caliber that the same caliber that the left of the same caliber that the same caliber that the same same countries and the same same countries are same called the same cal

tongs to the state. Collect a school tax from every individual between the Means Amalgamation ages of 21 to 50 years.

Editors, The News:

D.E.ASE let me make a few remarks about the proposed in the large and beautiful meadow retain express the sentiments of many citizens. For it seems that sensible men in group sessions at sensible and beautiful meadow fronting now. Tracel St. and constructions that sensible men in group sessions at the self-control of the sensition of the graves in the old cemetery because the sensition of the sensition of the graves in the old cemetery because the sensition of the sensition

Parks Must Be Protected

The Children Must Have Places To Play

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Came the day when Eisenhower was about to become President of the United From his old friend Winston Chiuchialso transatlantic phone calls, Churchill had kept up a steady stream of correspondence across the Atlantic with Frank lin Roosevelt. Winning the war became a sort of partnership, a joint enterprise between them. Never had the Anglotions simmered a bit under Truman and Attlee.

Prime Minister Attlee, a Laborite, didn't camp out in the White House with the Trumans the way Churchill had clumped up and down White House up stairs corridors in his bedroom slippers, his crimson and gold kimono half-draped around his nude and cheruble torso.

Ups And Downs Of Ike & The British

in tears.

Churchill had planned a dramatic se sion which he would dominate. The Pre-ident cut short that session abruptly, ife to New York to address the United N tions on Atoms-For-Pace. It took the headlines completely away from his owartime friend, the fading, aging Prin Minister of England.

Ruptured Alliance

Great Ambition

Great Ambition

Churchili Rad a great ambition—to hold a Big 3 conference with Soviet Russia-to patch up the peace of the world. The new President didn't like the idea, but churchili kept hammilse to meet him again in Bermuda in December 1983 for further discussions . . . Rev will be looking back on as he meets once again looking back on as he meets once again to be a control of the control o

PROBING DEVICE

THE Optical Society of America has I recently described an instrument that will help astronomers see through the interstellar dust clouds which obscure the center of the Milky Way. Of course, the Milky Way is a "flattish disk-shaped aggregation of a hundred billion stars," while governments are flattish amoeba-shaped aggregations of career officers and civil servants. But both radiate.

The Milky Way sends out a visible white light that is scattered by dust

clouds, and an infrared light that the nev clouds, and an infrared light that the new instrument will be able to pick up. Our government emits speeches and dollars and arms and good will, also subject to scattering by dust clouds, and the center sometimes becomes obscure. Perhaps the astronomers' instrument could be redestigned and .. but this is wishful thinking. Anyhow, the Milky Way is far easier to understand. It is a hundred worlds, while ours is only one.